

Recycled Water Use Allowed In California¹

	Treatment Level			
Irrigation	Disinfected Tertiary Recycled Water	Disinfected Secondary-2.2 Recycled Water	Disinfected Secondary-23 Recycled Water	Undisinfected Secondary Recycled Water
Food crops where recycled water contacts the edible portion of the crop, including all root crops	Allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Parks and playgrounds	Allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
School yards	Allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Residential landscaping	Allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Unrestricted access golf courses	Allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Any other irrigation uses not prohibited by other provisions of the California Code of Regulations	Allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Food crops where edible portion is produced above ground and not contacted by recycled water	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Cemeteries	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed
Freeway landscaping	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed
Restricted access golf courses	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed
Ornamental nursery stock and sod farms	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed
Pasture for milk animals	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed
Nonedible vegetation with access control to prevent use as a park, playground or school yard	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed
Orchards with no contact between edible portion and recycled water	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Vineyards with no contact between edible portion and recycled water	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Non food-bearing trees, including Christmas trees not irrigated less than 14 days before harvest	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Fodder crops (e.g. alfalfa) and fiber crops (e.g. cotton)	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Seed crops not eaten by humans	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Food crops that undergo commercial pathogen-destroying processing before consumption by humans	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Ornamental nursery stock, sod farms not irrigated less than 14 days before harvest	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Supply for Impoundment	Disinfected Tertiary Recycled Water	Disinfected Secondary-2.2 Recycled Water	Disinfected Secondary-23 Recycled Water	Undisinfected Secondary Recycled Water
Non-restricted recreational impoundments, with supplemental monitoring for pathogenic organisms	Allowed ²	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Restricted recreational impoundments and publicly accessible fish hatcheries	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Landscape impoundments without decorative fountains	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed
Supply for cooling or air conditioning	Disinfected Tertiary Recycled Water	Disinfected Secondary-2.2 Recycled Water	Disinfected Secondary-23 Recycled Water	Undisinfected Secondary Recycled Water
Industrial or commercial cooling or air conditioning involving cooling tower, evaporative condenser, or spraying that creates a mist	Allowed ³	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Industrial or commercial cooling or air conditioning not involving cooling tower, evaporative condenser, or spraying that creates a mist	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed
Other Uses	Disinfected Tertiary Recycled Water	Disinfected Secondary-2.2 Recycled Water	Disinfected Secondary-23 Recycled Water	Undisinfected Secondary Recycled Water
Groundwater recharge	Allowed under special case by case permits by RWQCBs ⁴			
Flushing toilets and urinals	Allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Priming drain traps	Allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Industrial process water that may contact workers	Allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Structural fire fighting	Allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Decorative fountains	Allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Commercial laundries	Allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Consolidation of backfill material around potable water pipelines	Allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Artificial snow making for commercial outdoor uses	Allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Commercial car washes not done by hand & excluding the general public from washing process	Allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Industrial process water that will not come into contact with workers	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed
Industrial boiler feed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed
Nonstructural fire fighting	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed
Backfill consolidation around nonpotable piping	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed
Soil compaction	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed
Mixing concrete	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed
Dust control on roads and streets	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed
Cleaning roads, sidewalks and outdoor work areas	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed
Flushing sanitary sewers	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed

Note:

- 1)
- Source: This chart is an informal summary of the uses allowed based on the California Department of Health Services Title 22, Article 4 Code of Regulations’ June 2001 version.
- 2)
- With “conventional tertiary treatment.” Additional monitoring for two years or more is necessary with direct filtration
- 3)
- Drift eliminators and/or biocides are required if public or employees can be exposed to mist.
- 4)
- Refer to Groundwater Recharge Guidelines